

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 AID-20 RSR-01 RSC-01

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R 301925Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6495

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10130

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ OREP, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: MEETING OF SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY WITH MINISTER
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SWARAN SINGH

SUMMARY: SWARAN SINGH SPENT AN HOUR WITH SENATOR PERCY
AFTER ANNOUNCING THE INDO-PAK AGREEMENT TO PARLIAMENT. HE
MADE CLEAR THAT HE FELT PERCY HAD BEEN HELPFUL BRINGING ABOUT
THE SETTLEMENT: THE SENATOR EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT INDIAN
POLICY ON A NUMBER OF POINTS.

1. THE MEETING IN SWARAN SINGH'S OFFICE BEGAN AT SEVEN
FORTY IN THE EVENING AND CONTINUED FOR AN HOUR DESPITE SEVERAL
EFFORTS BY US TO DEPART. THE MINISTER HAD JUST COME FROM ANNOUNCING
THE TERMS OF THE INDO PAK AGREEMENT TO PARLIAMENT. GIVEN THE
PRESSURES OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK HE HAD EVERY REASON TO WANT TO
GET THE INTERVIEW OVERWITH, BUT TO THE CONTRARY KEPT INTRODUCING
NEW SUBJECTS AND ASKING US TO STAY YET A BIT. HE CLEARLY FELT
PERCY HAD BEEN USEFUL IN ENCOURAGING THE PAKISTANIS TO REACH
AN AGREEMENT, AND JUST POSSIBLY HE FEELS PERCY'S NOT LESS
BLUNT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS IN
NEW DELHI HAD NUDGED INDIA ALONG AS WELL. HE SPOKE EXPLICITLY
OF THE "GREAT ASSISTANCE WHICH PERSONS OF GOOD WILL OUTSIDE
OF GOVERNMENT" CAN BE IN MATTERS SUCH AS THAT JUST CONCLUDED.

2. AFTER CONGRATULATING THE MINISTER AND CALLING ATTENTION TO
THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON THE SETTLEMENT, PERCY RELATED
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HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS

YEAR, WHEN HE CALLED ON HIM PRIOR TO GIVING A SENATE SPEECH ON THE INDIAN HELD POW'S. HE HAD MADE CLEAR THEN THAT AS A FRIEND OF INDIA HE FELT INDIA WAS IN AN UNTENABLE POSITION, AND SHOULD GET THOSE PRISONERS BACK TO THEIR FAMILIES. HE SAID HE FELT HE HAD COME TO THIS POSITION WITH CLEAN HANDS. IN 1971 HE HAD BROKEN OFF A VACATION TO GO TO KARACHI AND PLEAD WITH BHUTTO THAT HE MUST NOT TRY MUJIB. (PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, HE ADDED REMINDED AND THANKED HIM OF THIS ON HIS PRESENT TRIP, SAYING, "WE LET THE NIGHTINGALE OUT OF THE CAGE.") AT THE SAME TIME, AFTER MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GHANDI LAST WEEK HE HAD ARRANGED TO SEE AZIZ AHMED WHO HAD BY THEN ARRIVED IN NEW DELHI AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT MRS. GHANDI DID NOT FEEL THE PAKISTANIS WERE SERIOUSLY SEEKING A SETTLEMENT. HE HAD TOLD BOTH SIDES THAT IF THEY SHOULD FAIL THIS TIME THE WORLD WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING. HE MADE CLEAR IN HIS CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD BEEN THROUGHOUT SPEAKING ONLY FOR HIMSELF, AND NEVER FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

3. SWARAN SINGH COMMENCED A NARRATIVE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HINDU-MOGHOL RELATIONS OVER THE CENTURIES, COMING DOWN TO THE EVENTS OF THIS WEEK. ASKED ABOUT THE GENERAL TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS -- "SUBSTANTIAL" NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS ARE TO BE EXCHANGED -- HE STATED THAT THERE IS NO AMBIGUITY ON EITHER SIDE AS TO WHO IS LIKE TO MOVE. SPECIFIC NUMBERS HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON. HE INDICATED THAT PAKISTAN HAS AGREED TO RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH FAIRLY EARLY ON NOW, EVEN BEFORE ANY TRIPART-

TIE DISCUSSIONS ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE 195. HE DID NOT QUITE SAY THERE WERE NOT GOING TO BE ANY TRIALS EVER, BUT STATED IN DETAIL THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THEY COULD NEVER ACCEPT TRIALS. THIS WOULD BE TOO GREAT A STRAIN ON THE ISLAMABAD REGIME, AROUSE DISCORD AMONG PAKISTAN PUNJABIS, ETC. HE SAID INDIA WAS FLATTERED THAT THE PAKS JUDGED THAT THE 195 COULD REMAIN IN INDIA AND WOULD BE WELL TREATED. HE FEELS THAT AFTER RECOGNITION THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE SUBCONTINENT WILL BE DIFFERENT AND CLEMENT. NOTE HE DID NOT SAY THAT THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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4. IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED THE SENATOR WAS MOST HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY. HE STATED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A RUPEE SETTLEMENT, BUT ADDED THAT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND OTHER CONGRESSIONAL BODIES WOULD BE TAKING A VERY CLOSE LOOK AT THE TERMS. HE STATED THE VIEWS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON TRANSHIPMENT OF ARMS FROM IRAN TO PAKISTAN. HE OFFERED HIS JUDGMENT THAT IN PURCHASING NEW AMERICAN ARMS "THERE IS NOTHING IN THE SHAH'S MIND SAVE DEFENSE." THE

TWO EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT AT SOME LENGTH. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THAT I WAS TRYING TO SEE MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAM TO ASK WHAT HE MEANT BY HIS ASTOUNDING STATEMENT IN A NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW OF AUGUST TWENTY-SEVEN WHEN, HAVING BEEN ASKED WHY HE FELT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD DECIDED TO SELL ARMS TO IRAN, HE REPLIED "I THINK THEY MAY WANT TO KEEP THE WAR INDUSTRY GOING AFTER THE LULL IN VIETNAM. THEY HAVE A GOOD CUSTOMER TO KEEP THE WAR INDUSTRY." THE SENATOR HAS BEEN IN KASHMIR AND CANNOT HAVE SEEN THE TIMES STORY, BUT HE NONETHELESS ASSUMED THE GRAVEST COUNTENANCE AND ALLOWED THAT THE QUOTATION, IF ACCURATE, COULD ONLY HAVE THE MOST UNFORTUNATE REPERCUSSIONS AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES AND ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC GENERALLY. EARLIER HE TOLD SWARAN SINGH THAT HE HAD RAISED WITH MRS. GHANDI HER STATEMENT IN CANADA LAST JUNE THAT MOST AMERICAN AID TO INDIA WENT TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY, IN CONTRAST TO SOVIET AID WHICH WENT TO THE PEOPLE. HE HAD INFORMED HER THAT NINETY PERCENT OF AMERICAN AID HAD IN FACT GONE TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND THAT AMONG PERSONS IN AMERICAN KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THIS SUBJECT HER STATEMENT WOULD SIMPLY NOT BE UNDERSTOOD.

5. SEND US A FEW MORE LIKE PERCY AND SAXBE AND THINGS MIGHT LOOK UP OUT HERE.
MOYNIHAN

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